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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,559	03/11/2004	PUN CHOON ONG	112075	2558
28020 7590 10/31/2008 GRAY, PLANT, MOOTY, MOOTY & BENNETT, P.A. P.O. BOX 2906 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0906				
EXAMINER				
MILLER, DENA B				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3725				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/31/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/708,559

Applicant(s)

ONG, PUN CHOON

Examiner

Bena Miller

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 12-14 and 16-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 12-14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/01/08
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 07/01/08 was considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chai (US 6,564,835).

Chai teaches the method of the claimed invention including the steps of providing a log retrieving machine having a body, a boom (26) and a stabilizing arm, wherein said boom is operably attached to said body and wherein said stabilizing arm (20) is operably attached to said boom (via 30); securing a cable around said first log (col. 6, par. 1; It should be noted the cable 40 [Note figure 5] on roller guide 28 is used for winching purposes [It is inherent the winching process includes tying a cable around a tree [see col. 7, par. 5]] said cable extending through a pulley attached to a distal end of said boom (fig.5), said boom stabilized by an attached backhoe forearm (Abstract, lines

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23 and 24); moving said stabilizing arm so that a distal end of said stabilizing arm engages a ground surface adjacent said log retrieving machine to stabilize the log retrieving machine (col. 6, par. 2); and actuating a winch mounted on said log retrieving machine to draw in said cable, thereby retrieving said first log (col. 7, lines 57 – col. 8, line 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chai (US Patent 6,564,835) in view of Waddington, Jr. (US Publication 2002/0124442).

Chai teaches most of the elements of the claimed invention including a body, tracks and operator cabin (fig.1); a boom (26), a pulley (it should be noted that roller guide 28 function as a pulley since it is used for winching purposes), winch reel (48) and a stabilizing arm (20 attached to the boom via hydraulically operated backhoe 30). It should be noted Chai teaches that is well known to use a hydraulic system for a harvesting device and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use hydraulics to operate the winch reel of Chai for the purpose of operating the components of the device. Further, although Chai does not specifically teach the body

including an engine, it is well known in the art to use an engine for harvesting devices and would have been obvious to incorporate an engine in the device of Chai.

However, Chai fails to teach at least one grapppler and bucket stabilizing arm. Waddington Jr solves this problem by disclosing a similar apparatus including a grapple bucket (12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate at least one grapppler and bucket as suggested by Waddington Jr. in the device of Chai for the purpose of hooking and pull down trees.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chai.

Chai teaches most of the steps of the method except for grasping a second log. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the step of grasping a second log in the method of Chai for the purpose of hauling all cut trees from the cutting area.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bena Miller whose telephone number is 571.272.4427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on 571-272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bena Miller/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3725
October 29, 2008